IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Currently Amended)   A method of noise filtering an image sequence (V1), comprising the steps of:

determining a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in at least one image of the image sequence (V1), said spatial spread being a measure based on differences between pixel values in an image;

determining statistics from said spatial spread in said at least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

calculating at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from said at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted under control of the statistics, wherein said method further comprises the step of:

determining a temporal spread (S_{temp}) of a pixel (P_t) of the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) and a corresponding pixel from at least one other image of the image sequence,

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and wherein a spread (S) is a sum of absolute differences, a given absolute difference being obtained by subtracting an average pixel value from a given original pixel value (P_t, M_i).

4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 3, wherein the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) includes a central pixel value (P_t) and surrounding pixel values (M_i), wherein as a result of the noise filtering, the

5   central pixel value (P_t) is replaced by the filtered pixel value (P_t').

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of calculating comprises the steps of:

weighting the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) under

5   control of the statistics to obtain a weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i); and

furnishing the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i) to a static filter, in which the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is calculated from the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i),

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10   and wherein the set of weighted pixel values (P_t, N_i) is obtained

by taking, for each pixel value in the set of original pixel values

(P_t, M_i), a combination of a portion α of said each pixel value in

the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) and a portion 1-α of a

central pixel value (P_t).

7-8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method of noise filtering as

claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of calculating comprises the

steps of:

          weighting the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) under

5   control of the statistics to obtain a weighted set of pixel values

(P_t, N_i); and

          furnishing the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i) to a

static filter, in which the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t')

is calculated from the weighted set of pixel values (P_t, N_i),

10   and wherein the at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') is

obtained by calculating an average of the weighted set of pixel

values (P_t, N_i).

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as

claimed in claim 3,

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wherein the spatial spread (S_{spat}) is calculated from spatially displaced original pixel values in the set of original

5   pixel values (P_t, M_i),

wherein the temporal spread (S_{temp}) is calculated from temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) in the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in said at least one image and in sets of original pixel values in other images in said image

10   sequence; and

wherein the spatially displaced original pixel values are weighted under control of the spatial spread (S_{spat}), and the temporally displaced original pixel values (P_t, P_{t1}, P_{t2}) are weighted under control of the temporal spread (S_{temp}).

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the weighting step comprises:

dividing the weighted temporally displaced original pixel values to lessen their weight in the filtering.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 10, wherein the temporally displaced original pixel values include two original pixel values (P_{t1}, P_{t2}) from different fields in a same frame (F_0) and at least one original

5   pixel value of a previous frame (F_{-1}).

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of noise filtering as claimed in claim 12, wherein said temporally displaced original pixel values are temporally filtered.

14.   (Currently Amended)   A method of encoding an image sequence (V1), said method comprising the steps of:

encoding a plurality of filtered images, wherein the filtered images are

5   obtained by the steps of:

determining a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image sequence (V1), said spatial spread being a measure based on differences between pixel values in an image;

10   determining statistics from said spatial spread in each image of the image sequence (V1); and

calculating a filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted under control of

15   the statistics.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A device for noise filtering an image sequence, the device comprising:

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computing means for determining a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in at least one image of the

5   image sequence (V1), said spatial spread being a measure based on differences between pixel values in an image;

computing means for determining statistics from said spatial spread in said at least one image of the image sequence (V1); and

10   filtering means for calculating at least one filtered pixel value (P_t') from a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from the at least one image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted under control of the statistics.

16. (Currently Amended)   A device for encoding an image sequence (V1), the device comprising:

receiving means for receiving filtered images; and

a device for generating the filtered images of the image

5   sequence, said generating device comprising:

computing means for determining a spatial spread of a set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) in each image of the image sequence (V1), said spatial spread being a measure based on differences between pixel values in an image;

10   computing means for determining statistics from said spatial spread in each image of the image sequence (V1); and

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filtering means for calculating a filtered pixel value

(P_t') from the set of original pixel values (P_t, M_i) obtained from

each image, wherein the original pixel values (P_t, M_i) are weighted

15   under control of the statistics.

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